



"To protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing landowners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects."

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: No physical location

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings

in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **the Butte County Resource Conservation District will be closing the June 18, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting to members of the public and nonessential District staff.** Additionally, members of the Board of Directors are allowed to attend the meeting via teleconference and to the same extent as if they were present.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the Board meeting in the following ways

1. Remote Viewing

<https://zoom.us/j/321411651> (Meeting ID: 321 411 651) OR use
One tap mobile: +16699006833, then enter 321411651#

2. Public Comment

Public Comment can also be submitted anytime via email at bcrd@carcd.org. Every effort will be made to provide Board Members with your comments before the agenda item is heard. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President
- 2) **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – **Chair** Dave Lee, **Directors** John Christofferson, **Associate Director** Mike Crump, **District Manager** Thad Walker, **Staff** Wolfy Rougle, **AmeriCorps Member** Kimberly Romero
- 3) **REVISIONS TO AGENDA** (only emergency situations requiring the need to take immediate actions may be added as action items pursuant to Gov. code 549954.2(b))
- 4) **PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-action items)**

(1) (3 min. limit per speaker/topic, 15 minutes/person/meeting total) (2) *Public comment is encouraged. Any member of the public may address the Board with any comment related to the Resource Conservation District's areas of concern. However, no action can be taken by the Board on such items at this current meeting. The Board may direct staff to agendaize such items for consideration at a future meeting.* (3) **Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior*

to the vote occurring. After a motion

is made and seconded by two BCRC D Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and Associate Directors and then Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes/person. After the public comment period closes a vote will be held.

5) CONSENT AGENDA: Project Updates (see board packet).

6) ACTION ITEMS –

Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held 4/20/2021 – John mentioned in item N, paragraph i, modification is needed to read “Director Lee was not available to make the May 18th meeting”. With that modification, he voted to approve the minutes, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- b) Review and approval of accounts payable and financials- Colleen Hatfield – Colleen said a policy is needed to define the circumstances under which contractor invoices can be paid midcycle. On the A/P spreadsheet, contractor invoices “in white” have already been reimbursed by funder and are ready for payment by BCRC D; contractor invoices “in the gray” correspond to projects for which the BCRC D has not yet received any payment. Question: should any of the invoices “in the gray” be paid as soon as BCRC D is reimbursed for them, or should this only happen for select invoices flagged as extra time-sensitive by staff? Board discussed various policies to balance the need to pay contractors as promptly as possible with the need to review each invoice individually. Item tabled until next meeting to give Colleen and Thad time to ask other RCDs how they handle this issue. John moved BCRC D modify its payment to auditing firm from \$6,300 to a partial payment of \$3,300. Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously. With that modification, Colleen moved to accept the May 2021 A/P, and put all “gray area” invoices on hold until next month; exception: that the \$16,800 tree service invoice for BLM Upper Ridge project could be paid midcycle. Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously. Colleen reported that the new bookkeeper, Cheryl, seems to be working really well.
- c) BCRC D 2021/ 2022 Budget Discussion- Colleen Hatfield (non-action item) – Our fiscal year ends June 30 so it’s time to revise our annual budget. QB offers a “budget to actual” feature so we can track how our projections stack up against reality across the entire budget. (We already track this project-by-project in the project updates found in the consent agenda). Ideally the new budget would be ready for BOD comments by the June meeting and finalized by July meeting.
- d) LAFCO Election of a Special District Regular “Non-Enterprise” Member and an Alternate, ballot -Thad Walker – No board member had a strong opinion about this election, so the item was tabled.
- e) Ordinance No. 001 Dividing the District Into Five Divisions -Thad Walker – When the BCRC D was formed, County Supervisors appointed the first Board of Directors, but the long-term structure for selecting and replacing new Directors was never set up. To fix that, this ordinance would divide the District into five divisions mirrored to the Supervisorial districts in the County. Operations would not noticeably change. If a Supervisor did not appoint any Director from his/her district, the BCRC D Board themselves could select a new Director for that district after the position had been vacant 60 days. John moved to so ordain and to have the Chair of the Board sign the ordinance, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Board Resolution No. 05252021 requesting that the Butte County Board of Supervisors appoint the members of the Butte County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors -Thad Walker – This requests that the BOS also officially adopt/honor the ordinance BCRC D’s Directors just adopted. John moved to adopt the resolution and to have the Chair of the Board sign the resolution, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Contract with Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW)- Wolfy Rougle – Wolfy presented a proposed Challenge Cost Share agreement with PSW to perform site prep for their

reforestation studies. This agreement depends on a 20% match. BCRCDC will not have the ability to provide that match without the SNC Concow Resilience implementation funding. Although BCRCDC has been recommended for funding for \$2.1M under Concow Resilience, Board was not comfortable executing the agreement with PSW until after the SNC board meeting (which will not happen before late June or early July). Board directed staff to find out from PSW if a contingency clause could be worked into the CCS agreement (e.g., “RCD won’t be responsible for these deliverables if SNC does not fund Concow Resilience.”) *Update: PSW probably can’t add that contingency clause, but they can wait for BCRCDC to sign the agreement until after SNC grant is fully approved and funded.*

- h) Annual Review of Butte County RCD Fee for Service Rates -Thad Walker – Board requested Staff ask Dave Derby if we can find a way to build-in to the upcoming 3-year CAL FIRE contract either: (1) annual reviews of FFS (probably preferable), or (2) annual COLA increases. More generally, Allen remarked he feels the “Project Manager” rate in the existing FFS sheet be increased to perhaps \$80. Thad also mentioned that about \$100/hr would be a more average rate for Cultural Resources. Thad and Colleen will ask other RCDs for FFS sheets for comparison’s sake. No action taken.
- i) Sierra Corps Program Application -Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved the BCRCDC apply for 2 Sierra Corps members for coming term; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously. If Sierra Corps members are not available, BCRCDC will apply for 2 SNAP members.
- j) Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, June 15, 2021

7) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

a) Update – See staff updates in BOD packet. **Informational updates:** As remarked above, **Concow Resilience Implementation** has been recommended for funding. This \$2.1M project includes 2500 hours for a salaried forester over 3 years. In other news, **CAL FIRE** would like to extend our contract with them through 2024 and increase it to \$450,000 as well as expand the scope of work to cover implementation – additional forester funding support. **Colby Mdws Recreation Area:** Trail Labs have begun trail layout, and meetings with PCTA and other partners are upcoming to make sure the NEPA document developed works for all area stakeholders. Housing for Trail Labs personnel has been donated by a generous community member, Barbara Mann, who values the work BCRCDC is doing in the upper Butte Creek watershed. Board wants to send her a thank-you letter. **Dixie Rd:** Decision Memo has been signed by District Ranger. **Centerville/Roads:** BCRCDC was awarded a water boards grant for Centerville Rd, \$784,000. Grant agreement likely in August or September. **Butte Creek House:** Prop 1 Streamflow Enhancement planning grant funded last month, surveys/meadow analysis will come up in Sept/Oct and a THP will be the environmental document of choice and will include meadow restoration. **Storrie Meadows:** implementation will also kick off this fall, with BCRCDC playing a supporting role. **Granite Basin:** work continues to move forward, with hydro analysis, draft recreation report, pedestrian cultural resources survey, and wildlife BA completed; target for NEPA completion is end of 2021. And of course, **WCB Upper Butte Creek Forest Health** project is about to start in August 2021, while **WCB Pyrodiversity** will be continuing through 2021. **Prescribed Burn Association/DOC-WC** work will also continue at least through Feb 2022 (with funding actively being sought to sustain the program long-term). Overall, BCRCDC has a huge workload surge coming online in late summer-fall 2021 which will likely at least double the organization’s operating budget. To scale up and successfully take on these projects, Colleen asked if we didn’t need not only a forester but probably also an additional full-time project manager? Staff agreed 100% and will bring this need back to Board at June meeting. **EFRP update:** Technical assistance money has been used up but cultural resources have not been covered; FSA and USFS are working together to figure out how this expense can be covered.

8) PARTNERS' REPORTS (5 minute limit per group)

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups and agencies – Friends of Butte Creek has applied for a CDFW Fisheries Restoration post-wildfire program to do a survey from Magalia Resvr down to Butte Creek main stem and up and down Butte Creek to the upper and lower extents of the Camp Fire footprint. This survey would detect erosion issues, logjams, landslides and other disruptions to the floodplain and would develop a 30% design plan to restore the floodplain and prevent mobilization of massive quantities of downed trees in future floods. BCRCDD was asked for a letter of support. Wolfy mentioned BCRCDD potentially has a supportive/complementary project in that portion of the watershed (besides Centerville Rd and EFRP, that is) in that RCD has been asked to take on the post-DR-4407 mitigation of replanting 1,600-1,800 trees along Butte Creek.

9) BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report

10) ADJOURNMENT

***NOTE:** The Butte County Resources Conservation District (BCRCDD) distributes its Board meeting agendas electronically at least 24 hours in advance of meetings. If you would like to be added to, or removed from, the email list, please notify the Butte County RCD at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122 or by email to: bcrdd@carcd.org. The BCRCDD also publicly posts notice and agenda of meetings 72 hours in advance of meetings at the Butte County RCD office located at 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA. **Reasonable Accommodations:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Butte County RCD Manager*

at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122.

Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior to the vote occurring. After a motion is made and seconded by two BCRCB Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and Associate Directors and then the Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes per person. After the public comment period closes, a vote will be held